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BROTHER BEAR 2

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Super Sibs

Six Ways To Stop The Competition And Help Your Boys And Girls Become A Team

By Kristen Stewart, writer and contributor to parenting publications including *ePregnancy Magazine*, *ParentGuide*, and *Family Forum Magazine*, and mother of three

In the new DVD *Brother Bear 2*, moose brothers Rutt and Tuke's experiences on the road to romance with two bewitching "moosettes" help illustrate the differences between the sexes. While these differences become accentuated in adulthood, even boys and girls can have separate likes and dislikes. To ensure harmony at home, follow these simple steps to help your children see one another as individuals rather than "the enemy."

- Consider the personality and interests of each of your children. Meet each child's specific needs rather than trying to do everything equally among siblings.
- Plan fun family activities that everyone will enjoy but also give each child his or her space. Each of them should have the opportunity to develop their own friendships, have special toys that no one else touches, and a room or area to call their own.
- Spend time alone with each child. They'll enjoy the attention.
- Help your children feel like they're teammates rather than competitors. For example, instead of seeing who can clean up the most toys, set a timer and ask them to clean up a room together before it goes off.
- Teach your children the necessary skills to diffuse their disagreements. Show them how to discuss their feelings. Explain the ideas of compromise, dividing things equally, and taking turns. And unless someone is getting hurt, try to stay out of the argument and let them work it out themselves.
- Offer plenty of praise when you see them getting along. Who knows, with some positive reinforcement, they just might do it more often!